

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 7605

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: BULGANIN FUNERAL

1. FORMER SOVIET PREMIER NIKOLAY BULGANIN WAS BURIED AT NOVODEVICH6YE CEMETERY FEBRUARY 26. ALTHOUGH DIPLOMATS AND NEWSMEN WERE NOT ADMITTED INSIDE CEMETERY, EMBOFF OBSERVED CHAYKA LIMOUSINE ENTER GROUNDS AT CIRCA 1330, FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY TRUCK CARRYING WREATH-COVERED COFFIN AND THREE BUSES TRANSPORTING BLACK-CLAD MOURNERS. SEVERAL VOLGAS AND OTHER CARS DREW UP REAR OF PROCESSION. NO ZIL LIMOUSINES WERE SEEN, AND THUS THERE IS NO INDICATION OF POLITBURO ATTENDANCE. SOME TWENTY MILITIAMEN KEPT SMALL NUMBER OF BYSTANDERS FROM EVEN APPROACHING ENTRANCE TO CEMETERY. ONE MILITIMAN DID, HOWEVER, CONFIRM TO EMBOFF THAT BULGANIN WAS BEING BURIED.

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS HAVE PAID MINIMAL HONORS REQUIRED BY BULGANIN'S FORMER RANK, BUT HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED PUBLICITY WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY BRING BACK MEMORIES OF KHRUSCHEV'S ERA. FAILURE OF PRESENT LEADERS TO ATTEND FUNERAL IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ONLY QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER OR NOT SUITABLE GRAVESTONE WILL BE ERECTED, AND KHRUSHCHEV'S PRECEDENT SUGGESTS
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THAT EVENTUALLY ONE WILL APPEAR.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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